IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-37 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A polypeptide having at least 80% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; having an amino acid sequence, wherein at least an amino acid residue at position 39, ~~84~~ 85, 296, or 300 from the N-terminus is Ala, an amino acid residue at position ~~85~~ 86 or 310 is Thr, an amino acid residue at position 163 or ~~333~~ 303 is Ser, an amino acid residue at position 195 or 257 is Leu, an amino acid residue at position 271 is Arg, an amino acid residue at position 297 is Asp, an animo acid residue at position 299 is Gly, an amino acid residue at position 313 is Pro 299, or an amino acid residue at position 316 is Val, in correspondence with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and having immunogenicity inducing the production of an antibody against a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. (Original) The polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the homology is at least 90%.

3. (Original) The polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the homology is at least 95%.

4. (Original) A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5. (Currently amended) A polypeptide fragment having a partial sequence of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; or a partial sequence of an amino acid sequence having at least 80% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein at

least an amino acid residue at position 39, ~~84~~ 85, 296, or 300 from the N-terminus is Ala, an amino acid residue at position ~~85~~ 86 or 310 is Thr, an amino acid residue at position 163 or ~~333~~ 303 is Ser, an amino acid residue at position 195 or 257 is Leu, an amino acid residue at position 271 is Arg, an amino acid residue at position 297 is Asp, an amino acid residue at position 299 is Gly, an amino acid residue at position 313 is Pro, or an amino acid residue at position 316 is Val, in correspondence with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and having immunogenicity inducing the production of an antibody against a polypeptide according to claim 4.

6. (Original) A composition for producing an antibody specific to a polypeptide according to claim 4, comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of a polypeptide according to claim 1, a polypeptide according to claim 4, and a polypeptide fragment according to claim 5.

7. (Original) A method for the production of an antibody against a polypeptide according to claim 4, comprising administering a composition according to claim 6 to a mammal.

8. (Original) An antibody specifically binding to a polypeptide according to claim 4.

9. (Original) The antibody according to claim 8, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody or a monoclonal antibody.

10. (Original) A diagnostic kit for liver cancer or a precancerous condition of the liver, comprising an antibody according to claim 8.

11. (Currently amended) A polynucleotide coding for a polypeptide having at least 80% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; having an amino acid sequence, wherein at least an amino acid residue at position 39, ~~84~~ 85, 296, or 300 from the N-terminus is Ala, an amino acid residue at position ~~85~~ 86 or 310 is Thr, an amino acid residue at position 163 or ~~333~~ 303 is Ser, an amino acid residue at position 195 or 257 is Leu, an amino acid residue at position 271 is Arg, an amino acid residue at position 297 is Asp, an amino acid residue at position 299 is Gly, an amino acid residue at position 313 is Pro, or an amino acid residue at position 316 is Val, in correspondence with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and having immunogenicity inducing the production of an antibody against a polypeptide according to claim 4.

12. (Original) The polynucleotide according to claim 11, wherein the homology is at least 90%.

13. (Original) The polynucleotide according to claim 11, wherein the homology is at least 95%.

14. (Original) A polynucleotide coding for a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

15. (Currently amended) A polynucleotide coding for a polypeptide fragment having a partial sequence of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; or a partial sequence of an amino acid sequence having at least 80% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 1, wherein at least an amino acid residue at position 39, ~~84~~ 85, 296, or 300 from the N-terminus is Ala, an amino acid residue at position ~~85~~ 86 or 310 is Thr, an amino acid residue at position 163 or ~~333~~ 303 is Ser, an amino acid residue at position 195 or 257 is Leu, an amino acid residue at position 271 is Arg, an amino acid residue at position 297 is Asp, an amino acid residue at position 299 is Gly, an amino acid residue at position 313 is Pro, or an amino acid residue at position 316 is Val, in correspondence with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and having immunogenicity inducing the production of an antibody against a polypeptide according to claim 4.

16. (Original) A polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence from positions 436 to 1413 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

17. (Original) A vector comprising a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 11, 14, 15, and 16.

18. (Original) A host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 17.

19. (Original) A method for the production of a polypeptide according to claim 1 or claim 4 or a polypeptide fragment according to claim 5, comprising culturing a host cell

according to claim 18 under a condition capable of producing the polypeptide or the polypeptide fragment and then collecting the polypeptide or the polypeptide fragment.

20. (Original) A PCR primer comprising at least 15 nucleotides corresponding to a polynucleotide coding for a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

21. (Original) A PCR primer comprising at least 15 nucleotides corresponding to a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide coding for a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

22. (Original) A method for detecting a polynucleotide coding for a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, comprising using PCR primers according to claim 20 and claim 21 to perform PCR.

23. (Original) A kit that detects a polynucleotide coding for a polynucleotide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, comprising PCR primers according to claim 20 and claim 21.

24. (Original) An RNA molecule comprising 15 to 25 nucleotide pairs, comprising a nucleotide sequence corresponding to a partial sequence of a nucleotide sequence from positions 436 to 1413 of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a mutant nucleotide sequence of the

nucleotide sequence with the addition, deletion, or substitution of at least one base, and suppressing the expression of a protein specific to human liver cancer.

25. (Original) The RNA molecule according to claim 24, comprising 18 to 24 nucleotide pairs.

26 (Original). The RNA molecule according to claim 24, comprising 21 to 23 nucleotide pairs.

27. (Original) The RNA molecule according to claim 24, wherein the specific protein is a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a mutant protein thereof.

28. (Currently amended) The RNA molecule according to ~~claim 24~~ claim 27, wherein the mutant protein is a protein having an amino acid sequence having 80% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

29. (Currently amended) The RNA molecule according to ~~claim 24~~ claim 27, wherein the mutant protein is a protein having an amino acid sequence having 90% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

30. (Currently amended) The RNA molecule according to ~~claim 24~~ claim 27, wherein the mutant protein is a protein having an amino acid sequence having 95% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

31. (Original) An RNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.

32. (Original) An RNA molecule comprising a mutant nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10 with the addition, deletion, or substitution of at least one base, and suppressing the expression of a protein specific to human liver cancer.

33. (Original) The RNA molecule according to claim 24, wherein the RNA molecule has a hydroxyl group at the 3' end.

34. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition that suppresses the expression of a protein specific to human liver cancer, comprising an RNA molecule according to any one of claim 24 to claim 32.

35. (Original) A method for the production of a knockout cell, comprising introducing an RNA molecule according to any one of claim 24 to claim 32 to a cell expressing a protein specific to human liver cancer or a mutant protein thereof, and maintaining the cell under a condition bringing about RNA interference by the RNA molecule, to degrade mRNA transcribed from a gene coding for the specific protein or the mutant protein thereof.

36. (Currently amended) A knockout cell produced by a method according to ~~claim 34~~ claim 35.

37. (Original) A kit for the functional analysis of a protein specific to human liver cancer, comprising an RNA molecule according to any one of claim 24 to claim 32.